

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
MEDIEVAL ETHICS

Ethics was a central preoccupation of medieval philosophers, and medieval ethical thought is rich, diverse, and inventive. Yet standard histories of ethics often skip quickly over the medievals, and histories of medieval philosophy often fail to do justice to the centrality of ethical concerns in medieval thought. This volume presents the full range of medieval ethics in Christian, Islamic, and Jewish philosophy in a way that is accessible to a non-specialist and reveals the liveliness and sophistication of medieval ethical thought. In Part I there is a series of historical chapters presenting developmental and contextual accounts of Christian, Islamic, and Jewish ethics. Part II offers topical chapters on such central themes as happiness, virtue, law, and freedom, as well as on less-studied aspects of medieval ethics such as economic ethics, the ethical dimensions of mysticism, and sin and grace. This will be an important volume for students of ethics and medieval philosophy.

THOMAS WILLIAMS is Professor of Philosophy at the University of South Florida. He has published widely on figures including Anselm, Duns Scotus, Augustine, and Aquinas, and he is the editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Duns Scotus* (Cambridge, 2003) and *Thomas Aquinas: Disputed Questions on the Virtues* (Cambridge, 2005).

OTHER VOLUMES IN THE SERIES OF CAMBRIDGE
 COMPANIONS

- ABELARD *Edited by* JEFFREY E. BROWER *and* KEVIN GUILFOY
 ADORNO *Edited by* THOMAS HUHN
 ANCIENT ETHICS *Edited by* CHRISTOPHER BOBONICH
 ANCIENT SCEPTICISM *Edited by* RICHARD BETT
 ANSELM *Edited by* BRIAN DAVIES *and* BRIAN LEFTOW
 AQUINAS *Edited by* NORMAN KRETMANN *and* ELEONORE STUMP
 ARABIC PHILOSOPHY *Edited by* PETER ADAMSON *and* RICHARD C. TAYLOR
 HANNAH ARENDT *Edited by* DANA VILLA
 ARISTOTLE *Edited by* JONATHAN BARNES
 ARISTOTLE'S 'POLITICS' *Edited by* MARGUERITE DESLAURIERS *and* PAUL DESTRIÉE
 ATHEISM *Edited by* MICHAEL MARTIN
 AUGUSTINE 2nd edition *Edited by* DAVID MECONI *and* ELEONORE STUMP
 BACON *Edited by* MARKKU PELTONEN
 BERKELEY *Edited by* KENNETH P. WINKLER
 BOETHIUS *Edited by* JOHN MARENBO
 BRENTANO *Edited by* DALE JACQUETTE
 CARNAP *Edited by* MICHAEL FRIEDMAN *and* RICHARD CREATH
 THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO *by* TERRELL CARVER *and* JAMES FARR
 CONSTANT *Edited by* HELENA ROSENBLATT
 CRITICAL THEORY *Edited by* FRED RUSH
 DARWIN 2nd edition *Edited by* JONATHAN HODGE *and* GREGORY RADICK
 SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR *Edited by* CLAUDIA CARD
 DELEUZE *Edited by* DANIEL W. SMITH *and* HENRY SOMERS-HALL
 DESCARTES *Edited by* JOHN COTTINGHAM
 DESCARTES' 'MEDITATIONS' *Edited by* DAVID CUNNING
 DEWEY *Edited by* MOLLY COCHRAN
 DUNS SCOTUS *Edited by* THOMAS WILLIAMS
 EARLY GREEK PHILOSOPHY *Edited by* A. A. LONG
 EARLY MODERN PHILOSOPHY *Edited by* DONALD RUTHERFORD
 EPICUREANISM *Edited by* JAMES WARREN
 EXISTENTIALISM *Edited by* STEVEN CROWELL
 FEMINISM IN PHILOSOPHY *Edited by* MIRANDA FRICKER *and* JENNIFER HORNSBY
 FICHTE *Edited by* DAVID JAMES *and* GUENTER ZOELLER

Continued at the back of the book

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-16774-2 — The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Ethics
Edited by Thomas Williams
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

The Cambridge Companion to
**MEDIEVAL
ETHICS**

Edited by
Thomas Williams
University of South Florida



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-16774-2 — The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Ethics
Edited by Thomas Williams
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06-04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107167742

DOI: 10.1017/9781316711859

© Cambridge University Press 2019

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2019

Printed and bound in Great Britain by Clays Ltd, Elcograf S.p.A.

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Williams, Thomas, 1967– editor.

Title: The Cambridge companion to medieval ethics / edited by Thomas Williams, University of South Florida.

Description: New York: Cambridge University Press, 2019. |

Series: Cambridge companions |

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2018038848 | ISBN 9781107167742 (hardback) |

ISBN 9781316618110 (paperback)

Subjects: LCSH: Ethics, Medieval.

Classification: LCC BJ231.C36 2018 | DDC 170.9/02–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2018038848>

ISBN 978-1-107-16774-2 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-316-61811-0 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

List of Contributors	page vii
List of Abbreviations	xi
Introduction	1
<i>Thomas Williams</i>	
PART I HISTORY	
1 From Augustine to Eriugena	9
<i>Erik Kenyon</i>	
2 From Anselm to Albert the Great	32
<i>Ian Wilks</i>	
3 From Thomas Aquinas to the 1350s	55
<i>Eric W. Hagedorn</i>	
4 Islamic Ethics	77
<i>Jon McGinnis</i>	
5 Ethics in Medieval Jewish Philosophy	101
<i>T. M. Rudavsky</i>	
PART II CONCEPTS AND THEMES	
6 Happiness	127
<i>Jeff Steele</i>	

vi CONTENTS

7	Virtue <i>Thomas M. Osborne, Jr.</i>	150
8	Law <i>Jean Porter</i>	172
9	Freedom without Choice: Medieval Theories of the Essence of Freedom <i>Tobias Hoffmann</i>	194
10	Practical Reasoning <i>M. V. Dougherty</i>	217
11	Will and Intellect <i>Thomas Williams</i>	238
12	Emotions <i>Martin Pickavé</i>	257
13	Medieval Christian and Islamic Mysticism and the Problem of a “Mystical Ethics” <i>Amber Griffioen and Mohammad Sadegh Zahedi</i>	280
14	Economic Ethics <i>Roberto Lambertini</i>	306
15	Self-Interest, Self-Sacrifice, and the Common Good <i>John Marenbon</i>	325
16	Sin and Grace <i>Eileen C. Sweeney</i>	348
	<i>Bibliography</i>	373
	<i>Index</i>	405

Contributors

M. V. Dougherty holds the Sr. Ruth Caspar Chair in Philosophy at Ohio Dominican University. He is author of *Correcting the Scholarly Record for Research Integrity: In the Aftermath of Plagiarism* (2018) and *Moral Dilemmas in Medieval Thought: From Gratian to Aquinas* (Cambridge, 2011) and has edited *Aquinas's "Disputed Questions on Evil": A Critical Guide* (Cambridge, 2016) and *Pico della Mirandola: New Essays* (Cambridge, 2008).

Amber Griffioen is a Margarete von Wrangell research fellow and lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Konstanz. She is co-editor of *Interpreting Religion: The Impact of Friedrich Schleiermacher's Reden über die Religion for Religious Studies and Theology* (2011) and has published various articles on topics in philosophy of religion, the history of philosophy, philosophy of emotion and action and philosophy of sport.

Eric W. Hagedorn is Associate Professor of Philosophy at St. Norbert College. He has published articles in journals including *Oxford Studies in Medieval Philosophy* and *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.

Tobias Hoffmann is Professor of Philosophy at the Catholic University of America. He is the author of *Creatura intellecta: Die Ideen und Possibilien bei Duns Scotus mit Ausblick auf Franz von Mayronis, Poncius und Mastrius* (2002), the editor of *Weakness of Will from Plato to the Present* (2008) and *A Companion to Angels in Medieval Philosophy* (2012), and the co-editor (with J. Müller and M. Perkams) of *Aquinas and the Nicomachean Ethics* (Cambridge, 2013).

viii LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Erik Kenyon teaches Philosophy and Classics at Rollins College. He is author of *Augustine and the Dialogue* (Cambridge, 2018) and co-author of *Ethics for the Very Young: A Philosophy Curriculum for Early Childhood Education* (2019).

Roberto Lambertini is Professor of Medieval History in the Department of Humanities at the University of Macerata. Some of his studies about the theory of Franciscan poverty and its implications are collected in the volume *La povertà pensata* (2000) and he is co-editor (with Isa Lori Sanfilippo) of *Francescani e politica nelle autonomie cittadine dell'Italia basso-medioevale* (2017).

Jon McGinnis is Professor of Classical and Medieval Philosophy at the University of Missouri, St. Louis. He is the author of *Avicenna* in the Oxford University Press Great Medieval Thinkers Series (2010), translator and editor of Avicenna's *Physics* from his encyclopedic work, *The Healing* (2009), and co-translator (with David C. Reisman) of *Classical Arabic Philosophy: An Anthology of Sources* (2007).

John Marenbon is a senior research fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Honorary Professor of Medieval Philosophy in the University of Cambridge. His recent books include *Pagans and Philosophers: The Problem of Paganism from Augustine to Leibniz* (2015) and (as editor) *The Oxford Handbook of Medieval Philosophy* (2012).

Thomas M. Osborne, Jr., is Professor at the University of St. Thomas, Houston. He is the author of *Love of Self and Love of God in Thirteenth-Century Ethics* (2005), *Human Action in Thomas Aquinas, John Duns Scotus, and William of Ockham* (2014), and numerous scholarly articles.

Martin Pickavé is Professor of Philosophy and Medieval Studies and Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Medieval Philosophy at the University of Toronto. He is the co-editor (with Lisa Shapiro) of *Emotions and Cognitive Life in Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy* (2012).

Jean Porter is John A. O'Brien Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame. Her books include *Ministers of the Law: A Natural Law Theory of Legal Authority* (2010), *Nature as Reason: A Thomistic Theory of the Natural Law* (2005), *Natural and Divine Law: Reclaiming the Tradition for Christian Ethics* (1999), and *Moral Action and Christian Ethics* (Cambridge, 1994).

T. M. Rudavsky is Professor of Philosophy at Ohio State University. She is editor of *Divine Omniscience and Omnipotence in Medieval Philosophy: Islamic, Jewish, and Christian Perspectives* (1984) and *Gender and Judaism: The Transformation of Tradition* (1995), and co-editor (with S. Nadler) of the *Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy: From Antiquity through the Seventeenth Century* (Cambridge, 2009). She is the author of *Time Matters: Time, Creation and Cosmology in Medieval Jewish Philosophy* (2000), *Maimonides* (2010), and *Jewish Philosophy in the Middle Ages: Science, Rationalism, and Religion* (2018).

Jeff Steele is Lecturer in Philosophy at Santa Clara University. He has published articles in journals including *Oxford Studies in Medieval Philosophy* and the *Florida Philosophical Review*.

Eileen C. Sweeney is Professor of Philosophy at Boston College. She is the author of *Logic, Theology and Poetry in Boethius, Abelard, and Alan of Lille: Words in the Absence of Things* (2006) and *Anselm of Canterbury and the Desire for the Word* (2012).

Ian Wilks is Professor at the Department of Philosophy, Acadia University. He has published articles in journals including the *Journal of the History of Philosophy* and the *Review of Metaphysics*.

Thomas Williams is Professor of Philosophy at the University of South Florida. He has published widely on figures including Anselm, Duns Scotus, Augustine, and Aquinas, and he is the editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Duns Scotus* (Cambridge,

X LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

2003) and *Thomas Aquinas: Disputed Questions on the Virtues* (Cambridge, 2005).

Mohammad Sadegh Zahedi is Associate Professor of Islamic Philosophy and Theology at Imam Khomeini International University. He is the author of several English-language articles on religion and Islamic philosophy.

Abbreviations

INTERNAL DIVISIONS OF WORKS

a(a).	article(s)
a. un.	the sole article
ad <i>n</i>	reply to the <i>n</i> th objection
arg. in opp.	argument for the opposite
c(c).	chapter(s)
com.	comment
d(d).	distinction(s)
def.	definition
fol.	folio
in corp.	in the body (of the question)
lect.	<i>lectio</i>
lib.	book
l(l).	line(s)
n(n).	paragraph number(s)
obj.	objection
prol.	prologue
qc.	<i>quaestiuncula</i> (sub-question)
q(q).	question(s)
q. un.	the sole question
r	<i>recto</i> (on the front side of the page, with a for the left column and b for the right)
resp.	response
s. c.	<i>sed contra</i> (but on the contrary)
sol.	solution
tr.	tractate
v	<i>verso</i> (on the back side of the page, with a for the left column and b for the right)

xii LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

WORKS FREQUENTLY CITED

- Borgnet Albert the Great, 1890–1899. *Opera omnia*, ed. E. Borgnet
- CCCM *Corpus Christianorum Continuatio Mediaevalis*
- CCSL *Corpus Christianorum, Series Latina*
- Col. Albert the Great, 1951–. *Opera omnia* (ed. Coloniensis)
- Conf.* Augustine of Hippo, *Confessiones*
- CSEL *Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum*
- Lect.* John Duns Scotus, *Lectura*
- Leonine Thomas Aquinas 1882–. *Opera omnia, iussu Leonis XIII edita cura et studio Fratrum Praedicatorum*. 43 vols. to date. Rome
- Lottin Odon Lottin 1942–1960. *Psychologie et morale aux XII^e et XIII^e siècles*. 6 vols. Louvain: Abbaye du Mont César; Gembloux: J. Duculot
- NE Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*
- O*Ph* William of Ockham, *Opera philosophica*
- Ord. John Duns Scotus, *Ordinatio*
- O*Th* William of Ockham, *Opera theologica*
- Quod. *Quodlibetal Questions*
- SCG Thomas Aquinas, *Summa contra Gentiles*
- Sent. Peter Lombard, *Four Books of Sentences* (or, as otherwise indicated, another author's commentary on Lombard's *Sentences*)
- ST Thomas Aquinas, *Summa theologiae* (I: First Part; I–II, First Part of the Second Part; II–II, Second Part of the Second Part; III, Third Part)
- Vat. Vatican edition of John Duns Scotus 1950–